

(Note to Zones: What follows are some suggested elements to address in a Zone level smoke coordination plan. Don't be constrained by what is displayed here.)

DRAFT ZONE SMOKE OPERATIONS PLAN

XXXX Zone

June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2005

I. Scope and Purpose

- A. To help implement and coordinate New Mexico (NM) smoke management regulations, guidelines and issues on an interagency basis at the Zone level. Due to new state regulations in New Mexico, it is necessary to form interagency smoke coordination groups at the Fire Management Zone level, to prevent smoke conflicts and coordinate smoke production on prescribed fire projects to minimize impacts on specific airsheds. The advantage to local area coordination is that a priority approach to local projects can be taken, and that a coordinated system is less likely to invoke project shutdown by higher level authorities. Coordination between Zones will also be necessary where Zones share the same airshed.
- B. Smoke coordination in the XXXX Zone includes the following agencies:
 - 1) XYZ National Forest
 - 2) ABC (BIA) Agency
 - 3) NM State Forestry Department
 - 4) BLM
 - 5) Etc.
- C. Tribes in New Mexico are not required to follow NM Air Quality regulations, but most Tribes have expressed a willingness to coordinate and cooperate to protect public health. Zone smoke management groups are encouraged to set up relationships with local Tribes to help coordinate airshed smoke impacts, and relate Tribal smoke projects to the entire airshed. Describe how XXXX Zone plans to help with this effort.
- D. Describe who other Zones are that share the same airshed. Other zones to be coordinated with include:
 - 1) YYYY Zone
 - 2) ZZZZ Zone

II. Duties

- A. Who will serve as a primary contact in smoke management issues between the XXXX Zone Smoke Management Group and NM Air Quality Bureau,

and between partners in the Zone? Agencies doing projects will still have primary responsibility for notification, registration, and project completion reports to the NM Air Quality Bureau.

- B. Who will collect and maintain basic files/information on current and projected Prescribed Burn projects so that the Zone Smoke Management Group can coordinate? How will the Zone Smoke Management Group gather basic general burning info. from the cooperators? (ie; how will they collect the anticipated list of burning projects for the Zone?) What will be the basic info. gathered? (will the zone gather copies of burn plans?...copies of project registration with the NM Air Quality Bureau? Or other? NOTE; the zone should probably not try and duplicate all the information that the agency practitioners and AQB are gathering)
- C. The Zone group will describe how it will arbitrate conflicts. How will the Zone Smoke Management Group work with agencies on scheduling? How will they resolve conflicts when only limited projects can move forward at one time?
- D. Will the Zone develop a public notification process?
 - 1) Field questions and concerns from interested public
 - 2) Attempt to mitigate concerns
 - 3) Relay public concerns to both NM Air Quality Bureau and project practitioners
 - 4) Share importance of burning practices for reducing hazardous fuels and protecting communities, property and lives.
- E. How will the Zone communicate and coordinate with adjacent zones that share the same airshed?
- F. While agencies are responsible for registration of Wildland Fire Use incidents with the Air Quality Bureau, Zones may have a role in facilitating these communications as WFU incidents often happen when agencies are very busy. What role will the Zone play in assisting agencies on WFU incidents?

III. Staffing

- A. Who will be responsible for convening the Zone Smoke management group to initiate zone smoke coordination and arbitration procedures? Will it be in person meetings, conference calls, or what?
- B. Who will be the day-to-day contact person(s)?

IV. Feedback

Describe how you will gather information from NM Air Quality Bureau and from interagency partners to improve zone coordination on smoke; when will the zone revise this plan? Describe how Zone managers will review the program and improve it; how often will the zone smoke group meet? Will the Zone send a representative to the annual NM smoke stakeholders meeting, (usually the 2nd Tuesday in January and hosted by the NM Air Quality Bureau)?